

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of exchanging information between at least one party and
2 a plurality of intermediaries, the plurality of intermediaries including a selected
3 intermediary, the method comprising:
4 providing correct information to the selected intermediary;
5 providing incorrect information to each of the plurality of intermediaries
6 who are not the selected intermediary;
7 receiving modified information based on the correct information from the
8 selected intermediary;
9 receiving modified information based on the incorrect information from
10 each of the plurality of intermediaries who are not the selected
11 intermediary; and
12 wherein the plurality of intermediaries do not know the identity of the
13 selected intermediary.

1 2. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising creating the incorrect
2 information from the correct information.

1 3. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising creating the incorrect
2 information as a plausible variation of the correct information.

1 4. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing proprietary
2 data as the correct information.

1 5. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing a proprietary
2 program as the correct information.

1 6. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing the correct
2 information in encrypted form.

1 7. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising providing the incorrect
2 information in encrypted form.

1 8. The method set forth in claim 1, comprising receiving the modified
2 information based on the correct information in encrypted form.

1 9. A method of exchanging information among a first party, a second
2 party, a selected intermediary and a non-selected intermediary, the method
3 comprising:

4 providing, by the first party, correct first party information to the selected
5 intermediary;
6 providing, by the second party, correct second party information to the
7 selected intermediary;
8 providing, by the first party, incorrect first party information to the non-
9 selected intermediary;
10 providing, by the second party, incorrect second party information to the
11 non-selected intermediary;
12 processing, by the selected intermediary, the correct first party information
13 in conjunction with the correct second party information to produce
14 selected intermediary information;
15 processing, by the non-selected intermediary, the incorrect first party
16 information in conjunction with the incorrect second party
17 information to produce non-selected intermediary information;
18 providing, by the selected intermediary, the selected intermediary
19 information to at least one of the first party and the second party;
20 and
21 providing, by the non-selected intermediary, the non-selected intermediary
22 information to the at least one of the first party and the second party.

1 10. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising selecting the selected
2 intermediary.

1 11. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising creating the incorrect
2 first party information from the correct first party information.

1 12. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising creating the incorrect
2 first party information as a plausible variation of the correct first party information.

1 13. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing proprietary
2 data as the correct first party information.

1 14. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing a proprietary
2 program as the correct first party information.

1 15. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing the correct
2 first party information in encrypted form.

1 16. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing the incorrect
2 first party information in encrypted form.

1 17. The method set forth in claim 9, comprising providing the selected
2 intermediary information in encrypted form.

1 18. A method of processing information, comprising:
2 receiving, by an intermediary, correct first party information from a first
3 party;
4 receiving, by the intermediary, correct second party information from a
5 second party;
6 processing the correct first party information in conjunction with the
7 correct second party information to produce intermediary
8 information;
9 providing the intermediary information to at least one of the first party and
10 the second party; and
11 wherein a plurality of additional intermediaries receive and process
12 incorrect first party information in conjunction with incorrect second party
13 information.

1 19. The method set forth in claim 18, comprising receiving proprietary
2 data as the correct first party information.

1 20. The method set forth in claim 18, comprising receiving a
2 proprietary program as the correct first party information.

1 21. The method set forth in claim 18, comprising providing the
2 intermediary information in encrypted form.

1 22. The method set forth in claim 18, comprising receiving the correct
2 first party information in encrypted form.

1 23. A method of exchanging information between at least one party and
2 an intermediary, the method comprising:
3 providing correct information and incorrect information to the
4 intermediary;
5 receiving modified information based on the correct information from the
6 intermediary;
7 receiving modified information based on the incorrect information from the
8 intermediary; and
9 wherein the intermediary does not know which information is the correct
10 information.

1 24. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising creating the incorrect
2 information from the correct information.

1 25. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising creating the incorrect
2 information as a plausible variation of the correct information.

1 26. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising providing proprietary
2 data as the correct information.

1 27. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising providing a
2 proprietary program as the correct information.

1 28. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising providing the correct
2 information in encrypted form.

1 29. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising providing the
2 incorrect information in encrypted form.

1 30. The method set forth in claim 24, comprising receiving the modified
2 information based on the correct information in encrypted form.